



## **Abbott Lake 2007**

Abbott Lake is a 24-acre impoundment located along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway in Bedford County and is one of the attractions to the Peaks of Otter Park. Fishing is just one of the many recreational opportunities available in the Park. Numerous hiking opportunities range from very demanding hikes up high mountain peaks to the short flat trail around Abbott Lake. The Park also offers the outdoor enthusiast lodging at the popular Peaks of Otter Lodge or campground. Other facilities include picnic sites and shelters, a restaurant, restrooms, and scenic drives.

The Abbott Lake fishery is comprised primarily of smallmouth bass and bluegill (sunfish). Bullhead catfish and golden shiners are also present. Smallmouth bass are numerous but most fish are 8-12 inches in length with occasional bass up to 15 inches. Smallmouth bass are protected with a catch and release only regulation while the remaining species are governed by statewide regulations. The bluegill population is very good with both high numbers and good sizes. Most bluegill are 5-8 inches with occasional fish reaching 10 inches.

Since anglers are prohibited from using live bait (except during special kids fishing events) or boats, fishing from the shoreline with artificial lures is required. This lake is a popular destination for fly fisherman which is the most productive method for most anglers. Small wet flies for bluegill and larger flies such as 'Wolly Buggers' and streamers are more popular for the smallmouth.

The Park Service conducts kids fishing event on Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00 for youngsters ages 3-14. Bait and tackle is provided or you can bring your own. The program begins each spring on Memorial Day weekend and runs through the last weekend of October. For more information, call 540-586-4496.

The lake can be accessed from the Blue Ridge Parkway or by taking Rt. 43 to the Park from the Town of Bedford.